

She later attended Hernando High School which culminated at 8th grade. Ms. Sutton graduated from Hernando High as class Valedictorian and went on to finish her secondary education at Eastern High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi. Finishing as Salutatorian of her Eastern High class, Ms. Sutton decided to further her education by enrolling in the Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs, Mississippi. It was during this time that she met her life companion and husband, Mr. Jesse Sutton, Jr. From their union came three beautiful children who were raised and reared by the same biblical principles and standards Ms. Sutton and her husband had walked their entire lives.

After completing studies at Mississippi Industrial Ms. Sutton continued on to receive her Master's of Science degree from Jackson State University.

Ms. Della Mae believed in supporting efforts which would produce nurturing environments which fostered quality learning conditions for children. She served as a dedicated educator for more than thirty years in several learning facilities throughout Mississippi. Some of them included East Side High School in Olive Branch, Mississippi; Oakley Training School in Larned, Mississippi; Mendenhall Junior High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi and Northside Elementary School in Pearl, Mississippi from which she retired.

Throughout the years, Ms. Sutton has been recognized on several occasions for her outstanding works. The most notable was when she was recognized by former Governor and First Lady Ronnie Musgrove as one of the Most Outstanding Women for the Each One-Reach One Mother of the Year contest. She served as Chairperson of the Elementary Language Arts and was recognized for a host of other social awareness and scholastic advancement achievements. Ms. Sutton was also recognized by Who's Who Among Teachers, Teacher of the Year and by the Jackson District Association's with their Living Legacy Award.

Ms. Sutton was a civically engaged woman. She was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a member of "Keep Jackson Beautiful", an instructor of the Jackson District Ministers' Wives/Widows group and passionate supporter of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary. She was an active member of the General Missionary Baptist Convention and a devote member of the New McRaven Hill Missionary Baptist Church where she served as Sunday School teacher, Mother's Ministry member, devotional leader for the Mission Society and Vacation Bible School teacher.

This spiritual steward for Christ lived a life of both passion and purpose. She was an advocate of education, a champion of civility and a true lover of the Lord.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of a true champion, Evangelist Della Mae King Sutton.

## HONORING PROFESSOR DERRICK BELL

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman RANGEL to honor the extraordinary life of Professor Derrick Bell, a bold legal scholar, educator, author, activist, veteran, husband, father, brother, mentor and friend. Prof. Bell was a preeminent intellectual and a fearless harbinger of change. He was a man who inspired many to advocate for civil rights, hiring equity and judicial reform, and his stories of individual protest will be a timeless call to action for all who stand for justice. With his passing on October 5, 2011 we look to Prof. Bell's continued legacy and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

Derrick Albert Bell, Jr., was born to Derrick Albert and Ada Elizabeth Childress Bell on November 6, 1930 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Schenley High School and became the first member of his family to attend college, receiving his bachelor's degree in 1952 from Duquesne University. In 1957, after serving as an Air Force officer for two years, Prof. Bell earned his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, where he was the only African-American student.

With the recommendation of U.S. Associate Attorney General William Rogers, Prof. Bell took a position with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was the only black staff member. When, in 1959, the Department asked him to relinquish his membership to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Prof. Bell resigned. This would be the first of several high-profile resignations proffered in protest of racial injustice. He soon joined the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where he oversaw more than 300 school desegregation cases in Mississippi.

In the mid-1960s, Prof. Bell served as faculty and executive director of the University of California's Western Center on Law and Poverty. In 1969, partially as a result of black students' protests for a minority faculty member, Prof. Bell was recruited to teach at Harvard University—where he shortly became the ivy league school's first black tenured professor. He established new coursework and law review articles dedicated to civil rights law, became an invaluable mentor to students of color and called on the university to improve its minority hiring record. In 1973, he published, "Race, Racism and American Law," a book that became a staple in law schools and is now in its sixth edition.

In 1980 Prof. Bell left Harvard to become one of the first African-American deans of a non-historically black law school at the University of Oregon School of Law. However, he resigned five years later when the school did not offer a position to an Asian American woman. After returning to Harvard in 1986, he led a five-day sit-in inside his office to protest the school's failure to grant tenure to two professors whose work involved critical race theory. Moreover, in 1990 he took an unpaid leave of absence, pledging not to return until Harvard Law School asked a woman of color to join

tenured faculty for the first time. (Eight years later, Professor Lani Guinier achieved that milestone.)

By the time the school refused to extend his leave, Prof. Bell was already teaching at New York University School of Law, where he continued to be a visiting professor until his passing. Professor Derrick Bell's long legacy as a pioneer of critical race theory and as an unwavering upholder of principles, earned him a comparison by then Harvard law student Barack Obama, as a civil rights hero akin to Rosa Parks.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District and New York's 15th Congressional District salute and honor Professor Derrick Albert Bell, Jr. He dedicated his life to challenging academic paradigms and seeking justice for the systemically marginalized. His legacy will serve as a reminder that we must not be afraid to ask critical questions and to defend individual principles on behalf of future generations. We extend our deepest condolences to Professor Bell's family and to his extended group of loved ones. He will be deeply missed.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 817, I was attending the funeral mass of a family member and was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## THE STANDARD DATA ACT

### HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 3, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I am joining with my colleague Mr. DOGGETT of Texas, among others, to introduce the Standard Data and Technology Advancement Act, or the "Standard DATA Act." This legislation will establish consistent requirements for the electronic content and format of data used in the administration of key human services programs authorized by the Social Security Act.

Human services programs serve overlapping populations and should, from an information technology standpoint, operate consistently within and across programs. By beginning the process of data standardization and the use of common reporting mechanisms, this bill will help achieve three goals: better prevent and identify fraud and abuse; increase the efficiency of administrative resources to serve eligible beneficiaries; and produce program savings for U.S. taxpayers.

The private sector is far ahead of the public sector in its ability to use data efficiently to detect patterns of misuse, such as when credit cards are lost or stolen, and streamline backend data processing to reduce manual workloads. The public sector needs to review and implement these same sorts of best practices to better improve the operation of public benefit programs.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Human Resources, I called a March 11, 2011